

TLG-0004 (contd); TLG-0005

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1 I'm hard pressed to see how that can  
2 give an accurate picture of what's actually  
3 leaching through the ground and into the  
4 environment.

5 Because as we know, much of this  
6 waste has a lifespan that extends many, even  
7 hundreds, of generations from today. And we  
8 have to look at this from a really long-term  
9 perspective that we don't have to examine some  
10 of our other concerns. Thank you.

11 MR. DEE WILLIS: Sandra Roth.

12 **TLG-0005** MS. SANDRA ROTH: Sandra Roth.  
13 I'm going to keep it real short. I haven't had  
14 a chance at all to see the EIS.

15 Shelley and I work together every  
16 day. And I've heard tons of information about  
17 it, so I'm here to speak.

1

18 I just want to let you know, Hanford  
19 has enough. It's got so much stuff up there  
20 and we can't deal with what we have. And why  
21 are we adding more?

22 And after hearing this on a  
23 day-to-day saga, I can tell you that we need to  
24 deal with what we have.

25 MR. DEE WILLIS: Owen Kenton.

32

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TLG-0006

1       **TLG-0006**       MR. OWEN KENTON:   Hi.   My name  
2       is Owen Kenton.   And I'm Sandy's son.   And I  
3       found out about this meeting tonight at  
4       dinner time and I felt that I needed to come  
5       and voice my opinion on this.

6               And there was a few things that I  
7       felt I needed to hit on.   Which was, first, is  
8       that we need to deal with the problem that we  
9       have already, before we start adding to this  
10       problem, because it's just going to build up  
11       and build up until our next generations are  
12       going to be forced to deal with our problems  
13       that we can deal with now by starting to learn.

14              The second is that La Grande has two  
15       of the worst passes in the country right next  
16       to us.   And that we're going to be shipping  
17       these trucks over it.

18              And even though there's a low  
19       accident rate, if an accident occurs around  
20       people and a truck breaks open, there's going  
21       to be harm from it.   There's no stopping it.

22              The last thing that I'd like to  
23       point out is that we need to find different  
24       methods of storing this nuclear waste at the  
25       facility, because it's sitting on a patch of

33

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TLG-0006 (contd); TLG-0007

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1 columnar basalt, which most of you know.

2 And that columnar basalt does not  
3 stop nuclear waste from going straight down in  
4 the groundwater, which it's continuing to do,  
5 if we bring in more nuclear wastes. Thank you.

6 MR. DEE WILLIS: Richard  
7 Kenton.

8 **TLG-0007** MR. RICHARD KENTON: My name is  
9 Richard Kenton. The last of the clan to speak  
10 tonight. The first comment is the notice for  
11 this meeting was extremely short and left a lot  
12 of people unprepared, especially myself, so I'm  
13 going to ramble.

14 Today in Seattle, they spend about  
15 \$16 million on a drill, a drill, folks, dealing  
16 with a simulated dirty bomb.

17 A dirty bomb is where you take --  
18 put your nuclear waste, and you blast it into  
19 the atmosphere.

20 Quickly jump from there to  
21 La Grande. Let's talk about the weather  
22 conditions here. Let's talk about how the  
23 atmosphere moves through this valley in the  
24 winter months, when -- that's the time you're  
25 most likely to have an accident here.

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TLG-0007 (contd)

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1           The passes are horrible. The  
2 driving conditions are horrible. Things change  
3 at a moments notice, leaving truckers quite  
4 unprepared to deal with the situation.

5           We have truckers that are driving  
6 around with, well, possibly diminished mental  
7 faculties. But definitely not the knowledge  
8 that those of us that live here have of the  
9 conditions and the potential for icing,  
10 et cetera, on the road.

11           Let me collect my thoughts here real  
12 quick. We have situations here in the valley  
13 where the wind blows hard enough to blow a  
14 railroad freight train and blow cars off of a  
15 freight train, off the tracks. Blow them  
16 completely off the tracks.

17           It's a documented fact here in the  
18 valley that that has occurred. Trucks  
19 frequently flip over, blow over, slide off the  
20 road on ice.

21           I spend a lot of time on I-84. I've  
22 watched the way people drive. I watch the way  
23 truckers drive. 1984, '85, I was coming  
24 through Ladd Canyon in a blinding snowstorm,  
25 and was going down through there with a large

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TLG-0007 (contd)

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1 semitruck, large cask of some sort, highly  
2 reinforced with a radioactive placard.

3 I was driving a four-wheel drive  
4 vehicle, studs all the way around. The vehicle  
5 that was next to me was driving slick, no  
6 chains.

7 And the truck slid toward me on the  
8 highway. I was able to make it around, off the  
9 shoulder, back on to the highway. If I had  
10 been trapped under that, I would have gotten a  
11 nice lethal dose I'm sure.

12 I don't like radiation. It's a part  
13 of life, but I don't need added radiation added  
14 to my life.

15 Right now the speed limit is 55.  
16 Truckdrivers on this highway drive, you know, a  
17 little bit more than that, 60 to 75 miles an  
18 hour.

19 In Salem right now, this part isn't  
20 in the EIS, in Salem right now they're talking  
21 about bumping up the speed limit. They bump up  
22 the speed limit to 70 miles an hour, what are  
23 the truckers going to drive then?

24 The numbers have been crunched,  
25 accident levels are shown, low risk, but

TLG-0007 (contd); TLG-0008

1

1 there's always Murphy out there.

2 And Murphy says that, you know, he's  
3 the worst possible time, worst possible things  
4 can happen. Rollover, Ladd Canyon, high winds,  
5 you have basically a dirty bomb going off.  
6 Thank you.

7 MR. DEE WILLIS: Norm Cimon.

8 **TLG-0008** MR. NORM CIMON: Thank you. My  
9 name is Norm Cimon, and I live here in  
10 La Grande. I'm going to sort of echo some of  
11 the comments I've heard already.

1

12 The idea of lining the trenches is  
13 certainly a big advance, especially from  
14 professional scientists. It seems to at least  
15 indicate that we've left the primitive stages  
16 behind.

17 It seems to me that given the  
18 geology of that part of the world, it really is  
19 one of the solutions. So thank you for that.

20 As I mentioned the first time I gave  
21 comment, the first time you came through with  
22 the really poor piece of work before, the risk  
23 analysis was a huge flaw. And to my mind it  
24 still is something that greatly weakens the  
25 document as a whole.

37

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## TLG-0008 (contd)

1           I'd echo Gerry's comments here that  
2       the whole idea of having a model that is sort  
3       of a very sophisticated piece of probabilistic  
4       work and then filling it with assumptions that  
5       are back of the envelope in terms of the  
6       probability distributions themselves just makes  
7       no sense. But that is, in fact, what we have  
8       here.

9           At this stage, we can get highway  
10       specific rates, accident rates. And I don't  
11       understand why those are not factored in.

12           I also have deepening concerns about  
13       the crisis that states' bridges now find  
14       themselves in. And while I respect Ken's  
15       opinion greatly, it does worry me to no end  
16       that we will see some of sort of worst-case  
17       scenario where we have these truckloads somehow  
18       finding their way into our small towns and some  
19       sort of episode that leads to a lot of  
20       recriminations and a lot of bitterness.

21           I know that people will try to do  
22       thier best, but I don't see that shipping  
23       high-level wastes and transuranics to a place  
24       that already has its problems dealing with what  
25       we currently have is going to make any of this

38

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TLG-0008 (contd); TLG-0009

2 |

1 better.

3 |

2 Again, I think the real weak point  
3 in the EIS at this point is the probability  
4 distributions associated with the risk  
5 analysis.

6 They should be highway specific.  
7 They should be specific to the terrain they're  
8 going to be going through. And they should  
9 also take into account the potential for  
10 worst-case scenarios where we actually dump  
11 stuff into our rivers.

12 I have lots of photos I can show you  
13 of trucks hanging over rivers in the middle of  
14 winter out here. Thank you very much.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: Wayne Kinney.

16 **TLG-0009** MR. WAYNE KINNEY: Hi, I'm  
17 Wayne Kinney. I work for Senator Wyden. And I  
18 live and work here in La Grande.

19 And I've got a statement from the  
20 Senator. It deals with the EIS and also with  
21 general Hanford stuff.

1 |

22 "It doesn't matter how many new  
23 plans the Energy Department comes up with or  
24 what they call them. Oregonians will simply  
25 not accept any plan that leaves waste in the



## TLG-0009 (contd)

1 | 1 Hanford tanks.

2 | 2 "Oregonians don't want to add to the

3 | 3 waste that is already leaking into the

4 | 4 Columbia, and Oregonians will not accept a plan

5 | 5 that calls waste by another name to enable it

6 | 6 to be trucked down Oregon freeways.

7 | 7 "At the scoping hearings held in

8 | 8 this Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement

9 | 9 of February, I and other Oregonians urged the

4 | 10 Department of Energy to keep working to vitrify

11 | 11 all of the wastes in the tanks at Hanford.

12 | 12 "I reminded the DOE that it made a

13 | 13 commitment in 1997 to vitrify all of the wastes

14 | 14 in the tanks. And I told the Department that

15 | 15 keeping that promise was important to

16 | 16 Oregonians.

17 | 17 "I also noted that some Hanford

18 | 18 officials seemed to be acting as though a

19 | 19 decision on the tank waste had already been

20 | 20 reached and asked DOE officials to make sure

21 | 21 that Oregonians and other residents of the

22 | 22 Northwest weren't presented with a fait

23 | 23 accompli.

5 | 24 "This hearing process, I wrote in

25 | 25 February, should not be a sham exercise

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TLG-0009 (contd)

5

1 undertaken solely to fulfill the letter of the  
2 law.

3 "But DOE officials are still acting  
4 as though this decision was reached long before  
5 the public hearing process was reopened.

6 "At budget hearings held last month,  
7 these officials talked about changes in the  
8 plan for the tank wastes and talked about the  
9 impact on future budgets.

6

10 "That new plan for the vitrification  
11 plant was announced last week, just a few days  
12 before giving the people of Pacific Northwest a  
13 chance to comment in these hearings and well  
14 before the record of decision is finalized.

7

15 "DOE officials also, for the first  
16 time since the tri-party agreement was signed,  
17 refused to grant a very reasonable request to  
18 extend the comment deadline.

8

19 "During the budget hearings, a DOE  
20 official said that one of the biggest problems  
21 his Department faced was credibility.

22 "But when the DOE acts as if this  
23 decision has already been made, it's bound to  
24 have credibility problems.

25 "When the DOE proposes a plan that

## TLG-0009 (contd)

8

1 the Washington Department of Ecology believes  
2 will leave waste in the tanks, it's bound to  
3 have credibility problems.

4 "When the DOE proposes a plan that  
5 renames tank waste so it can be pumped on to  
6 trucks, it's bound to have credibility  
7 problems.

8 "When the DOE refuses to extend a  
9 routine request to extend the comment deadline,  
10 it's bound to have credibility problems.

11 "When the DOE lets contracts that  
12 don't allow Ecology and the EPA to monitor  
13 progress on cleanup, it's bound to have  
14 credibility problems.

15 "When the DOE reaches an agreement  
16 on transuranic waste shipments and breaks it  
17 within months, it's bound to have credibility  
18 problems.

19 "When the DOE takes actions that can  
20 be fairly interpreted as attempts to weaken or  
21 break the tri-party agreement, it's bound to  
22 have credibility problems.

9

23 "As I wrote in February, the  
24 Department of Energy is spending a great deal  
25 of time trying to avoid the commitment it made

42

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TLG-0009 (contd)

9

1 to us back in 1997.

2 "Oregonians want the DOE to live up  
3 to its commitments and move forward with the  
4 task of eliminating the high-level tank --  
5 wastes in the tanks. Vitrification was the  
6 best decision then, it's the best decision now.

7 "In a recent statement, Richland  
8 operation manager Keith Klein stated the  
9 following, and I quote, 'The Department's job  
10 is to clean up waste and take the necessary  
11 steps to ensure the job is done in a safe and  
12 effective manner in accordance to all the  
13 applicable laws.' I could not agree more.

14 "When the Congress appropriates  
15 funds for the Department of Energy and the  
16 Hanford Nuclear Reservation, it expects those  
17 funds to be used for cleanup and not for a  
18 lawyer's full employment program.

19 "It's time for the DOE to stop  
20 fudging on its commitments, stop trying to  
21 weaken the TPA and start getting back to the  
22 job that Oregonians and all Americans are  
23 paying them to do. Thank you."

24 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. Does  
25 anybody else have any formal comments at this

43

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Panel Discussion

1 point? You'll have a chance later. All right.

2 What I want to do now is move to a  
3 different or more informal format, invite --  
4 let's turn some chairs around up here, invite  
5 the following people to come up, if you wish,  
6 to respond to questions from this audience.

7 That would be Mike Barry from the  
8 Oregon Department of Transportation. Mike,  
9 Ken, Gerry, Shelley. Did I miss anybody?

10 If there are questions for Dennis,  
11 he'll answer them, but he's not going to come  
12 up.

13 So here's what I'd like to do: If  
14 you have a question for any of those people,  
15 raise your hand. I'll recognize you. You ask  
16 the question.

17 And then I want you to let these  
18 people discuss the answer among themselves.  
19 Let them have a discussion about it, okay. Any  
20 questions about this format?

21 Okay, first question, this gentleman  
22 here. And what I'd like to do is for you to  
23 speak into the mike and tell us your name.

24 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: Thank  
25 you. Bill Oberteuffer from Island City. And

44

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 I'd like to ask a question of the gentleman  
2 from Heart of America Northwest, and I can't  
3 remember your name, I'm sorry.

4 MR. GERRY POLLET: Gerry  
5 Pollet.

6 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: Gerry.  
7 What plans do you have, or what plans does your  
8 organization have, for keeping more waste out  
9 of Hanford?

10 MR. DEE WILLIS: Would you  
11 spell your last name, please?

12 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: You  
13 spell it just like it sounds.  
14 O-B-E-R-T-E-U-F-F-E-R.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: Just like it  
16 sounds.

17 MR. GERRY POLLET: Bill, there  
18 is the possibility of endless lawsuits, as  
19 those people who are members of ours know, that  
20 we urged the state of Washington to sue to stop  
21 these transuranic waste shipments, these  
22 plutonium waste shipments.

23 And we, along with three other  
24 citizen groups filed suit. In the course of  
25 doing that -- and one of the reasons that led

45

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 to it is that DOE is not exactly up front about  
 2 giving you the information you need -- and  
 3 through the Freedom of Information Act, we  
 4 discovered things like a document that said we  
 5 have to keep the stakeholders in the state of  
 6 Washington from learning about these shipments.

7 That was December 2001. Documents  
 8 from senior Hanford officials saying we have to  
 9 keep plans about these shipments, quote, "in  
 10 this room," unquote.

11 And plans to, quote, "make receipt  
 12 of remote-handled transuranic wastes" at  
 13 Hanford, quote, "a higher priority," unquote,  
 14 than Hanford cleanup work.

15 So going to court is one option.  
 16 This EIS, it's not adequate and it won't pass  
 17 muster right now to allow them to start the  
 18 next round of shipments that they want to ship  
 19 after August 1st. That's why they don't want  
 20 to extend the comment period, you see.

21 They've already announced, and Mike  
 22 can respond to this if he disagrees with it,  
 23 but they've announced that they're going to  
 24 issue a decision by August 1st so that they can  
 25 start the floodgates opening, and up to a

46

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 million cubic feet a year, that's a five-fold  
2 increase of waste imports.

3 So the next step is on the other  
4 side of the border in Washington state, we'll  
5 be talking about this public hearing in  
6 Seattle.

7 We will be making an announcement  
8 about a state-wide ballot initiative that will  
9 stop Hanford from becoming a national  
10 radioactive waste dump.

11 I'm also proud to say that  
12 Senator Wyden, several members of Congress from  
13 Oregon and Washington, have agreed that they  
14 will be pushing legislation to stop the dumping  
15 of radioactive waste in these unlined burial  
16 grounds.

17 You know, we've talked about it.  
18 But you need to see it to believe it. This  
19 looks like Iraq from what you were saying  
20 earlier.

21 This is the smallest, I believe, of  
22 Hanford's unlined burial grounds. This is how  
23 they dump waste today, no liner.

24 You can't dump your kitchen garbage  
25 in an unlined trench. This is a quote from,

47

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 I'm borrowing from Senator Wyden, actually,  
2 "you can't dump your municipal garbage in  
3 unlined ditches, it's against the law."

4 The Department of Energy is dumping  
5 200,000 cubic feet a year. Enough to cover  
6 13 football fields, a foot deep, of imported  
7 radioactive wastes in unlined ditches,  
8 poisoning the groundwater and Columbia River.

9 We know it's spreading  
10 contamination. And that's going to continue  
11 for untold years. We've just stopped that this  
12 year.

13 And so we're looking at federal  
14 legislation and we're looking at state  
15 legislation to stop it. And, of course, we'll  
16 probably have to challenge this EIS.

17 We will have a court date, a full  
18 trial, which looks right now like slam dunk  
19 stuff, transuranic waste, if they don't revise  
20 this EIS.

21 MR. DEE WILLIS: I assume that  
22 Gerry responded to your question.

23 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: Thank  
24 you.

25 MR. DEE WILLIS: Does anybody

48

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